

I. INTRODUCTION

This report documents the results and conclusions of a Phase II archaeological evaluation of Site 7-NC-E-152, located near the intersection of DE 37 (Airport Road) and DE 58 (Churchmans Road), in Duros Heights, New Castle County, Delaware (Figure 1). The undertaking that initiated these investigations involves the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) plans to make improvements to this crossroads through the widening and reconfiguration of existing traffic corridors. Site 7-NC-E-152 was originally identified by KSK during an earlier Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the larger intersection improvements project area, and was recommended for additional testing based on determinations that the site likely retained a high degree of integrity and evidence of potentially significant internal artifact patterning.

KSK was contracted to perform subsequent Phase II testing on the site by the engineering firm of Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP (WRA) and fieldwork was completed between April and May 2002. The specific goals of this investigation were to:

- evaluate the vertical and horizontal integrity of the artifact deposits associated with Site 7-NC-E-152;
- identify any evidence of potentially meaningful intra-site artifact patterning;
- recover a larger sample of artifacts in order to examine possible site function and dating;
- determine whether or not this site has significance that would make it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;
- formulate recommendations regarding the possible need to conduct Phase III Data Recovery excavations in order to mitigate the effects of construction impacts to the site.

This Archaeological Investigation was conducted in accordance with, and pursuant to the requirements of all applicable federal and state regulations, including Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); the Department of Transportation Act, as amended; the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), and Title 29 § 8705 and Title 7 § 5302 of the Delaware State Code.

Summary of Phase I Testing

The Phase I Survey of the Airport and Churchmans Road Intersection project area initially identified Site 7-NC-E-152 along the west side of Airport Road, a short distance north of the intersection with Churchmans Road, and situated atop a low wooded bench or terrace overlooking a series of first order tributary streams and expansive wetlands associated with the nearby Christina River. Placement of 32 close interval (50 feet / 15 meters) shovel tests through this area revealed the site to extend over an approximate 300-foot long section of that landform and produced a total of 64 prehistoric artifacts. These items were recovered primarily from what appeared to be undisturbed A-horizon soils and included both bifacial and unifacial tools, simple flake tools, manufacturing debris, cores, and fire-cracked-rock. Temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered from the site were represented by a single quartzite triangular point fragment, and served to tentatively date the occupation to the Woodland II culture period. More extensive Phase II testing of the site was recommended based on the apparently undisturbed nature of these cultural deposits, along with evidence of preserved internal artifact patterning suggesting the possible presence of temporally and/or functionally discreet activity areas.

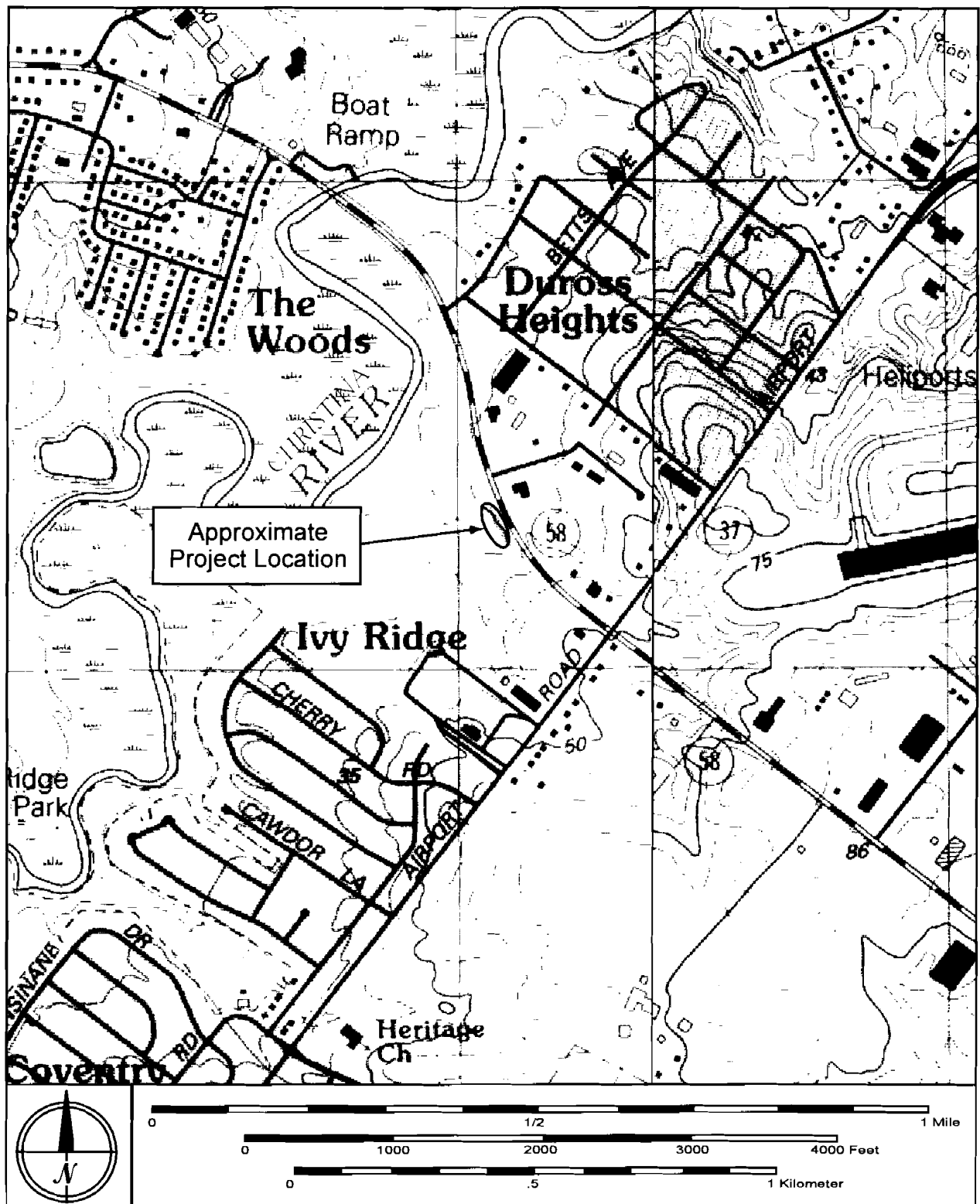


Figure 1. Project area location. (Detail: *Wilmington South and Newark East NJ Quadrangles, 7.5 Minute Series, USGS 1993*).